

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In - Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes from 3/16/23

Attendance:

- Abbey Willard
- Kelly Klein
- Danielle Bombardier
- Anna Guenther
- Virginie Diambou
- Jenna Hirschman
- Mona Tolba
- Carey Henstenberg
- Clare McIlvennie
- Marian Wolz
- Ana Mejia (member of the public)
- Brian Woods (member of the public)
- Alex Lintner (member of the public)
- Phoebus Potter (member of the public)
- Karla Raimundi (member of the public)

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

- Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes from 4/20/23

4:10 PM Review VT Renews BIPOC Council letter response from JTSC

- Main point of less is to respond and please apologize for the delayed response
- Subgroup made some edits to the VCC letter based on feedback from April JTSC meeting
- Edited version was shared with full JTSC prior to 5/18 meeting and then reviewed during the meeting
- SC addressed the fact that VCC has not, to this date, made a response to any other public request
- Next steps would be to reach out to VT Renews BIPOC Council to confirm if our response is helpful and a welcomed gesture
- Following support from the VT Renews BIPOC Council, then this JTSC response would be sent to VCC
- JTSC would also like to extend an invitation to the VT Renews BIPOC Council to meet with our JTSC at a future meeting

4:38 PM Public engagement updates from other subcommittees or task groups

- Claire McIlvennie shared a few slides from the VT Public Service Department public engagement plan and progress
- Plan outlines goals and pathways for accountability, which drew heavily on the Guiding Principles
- Plan to complete Equity Impact Assessments for relevant programs
- 3 phase approach for 2023: building awareness; program and policy review; and reporting on recommendations to the Legislature in 2024
- Current activities: conducted a webinar series on current policies; outreach to community-based organizations and impacted communities; statewide polling to engage a larger audience and provide compensation for those that attend focus groups; partnering on listening sessions across the state; plan to host fall public comment period for review of recommendations

- Claire shared that much of the motivation for this approach is rooted in discussion and perspectives from this JTSC
- Comment that Department needs best practices to know how to do the public engagement before make the commitment to do it
- Suggestion to build more time into the timeline for public comment and input as well as reporting back to the community that their contributions were heard and used in developing recommendations

5:13 PM Public comment

- Ana Mejia provided public comment.

5:38 PM VCC, Climate Action Office and other subcommittee/task group updates

- Currently interviewing CAO's Community Engagement applicants and hope to be filled soon
 - Feedback that it would have been appreciated to share the position posting with the JTSC to be able to distribute to networks
- The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant was included in IRA to have EPA give to states to support GHG mitigation activities. VT will receive two phases of this funding – to support climate mitigation planning related to the Climate Action Plan (in July 2023) and additional funding for project implementation.
- Legislative update – Affordable Heat Act (S.5) passed this legislative session following veto vote override. There are many equity components associated with this new bill.
- There may be many opportunities for this subcommittee to engage in this work
- There was specific reference to the Guiding Principles as well in the bill language
- Comment was made that people are very concerned about the financial implications of S.5 on many individuals across communities in Vermont
- Suggestions made to ask the Public Utility Commission to attend a JTSC meeting once better organized around this bill to ensure we engage around public participation planning, clear education and information, strategies to collaborate with JTSC, and integrate the Guiding Principles into their process

5:50 PM What's Next

- Based on meeting poll responses, we will continue monthly JTSC meetings scheduled for this same time (4-6pm) every 3rd Thursday through the summer months
- We can reevaluate again in the fall if we need to make a change
- Meeting ended at 6:02pm

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